

Government shouldn't tolerate any waste, no matter how big or small.

Let's prove to the American people that we're capable of coming together to cut the most obvious examples of waste by passing the CLEAN Act.

HONORING ESPERANZA BRAVO DE VARONA AND LESBIA ORTA VARONA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and honor Esperanza Bravo de Varona and Lesbia Orta Varona on their well-deserved retirement after a long career with the Otto G. Richter Library at the University of Miami.

Their distinguished careers were marked by impressive contributions to a special collection called the Cuban Heritage Collection.

Their commitment to excellence has truly allowed them to shape the lives of many students, academics, and historians, and in that I count my father, Enrique Ros, who authored 19 books on Cuban history and local politics and relied upon the original documents found in the library's collection. Many other authors and historians have also come to rely on these documents.

I have great confidence that the library will continue in the positive direction that Esperanza and Lesbia have set for it and that their commitment will be remembered for many years to come, Mr. Speaker.

As a former Florida certified teacher, I know that there are few rewards greater than the satisfaction of investing in education, and I thank Esperanza and Lesbia for having empowered so many in our community with the resources and guidance to expand their knowledge.

I wish them both all the best in this new chapter of their lives.

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. The Republicans, under the guise of being family friendly, are going to strip American workers of overtime pay. That's right, work more than 40 hours a week, you don't get paid overtime anymore under their bill. Instead, you get comp time.

They say, Oh, this is family friendly, it's flexible. Well, there's certainly flexibility now that employers can grant people leave for family problems and other things. This would be essentially an interest-free loan to employers. They tell you you're working 50 hours, and I'll give you comp time, but it's up to them to give you the comp time. So they could wait until the end of the year, then pay you the overtime without having granted you comp time

and having had an interest-free loan. This is outrageous.

Many Americans are having trouble making ends meet. They're dependent upon overtime pay to make ends meet. Wages are stagnant, and they need the overtime pay to make ends meet. Women still only earn 77 cents on the dollar compared to male workers. They need the overtime pay to help feed their kids. But, no, the Republicans want to take that away from them under the guise of being female friendly.

Happy Mother's Day from the Republicans.

NIDAL HASSAN'S ACTIONS SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED AS TERRORISM

(Mr. ROONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, on November 5, 2009, Nidal Hassan, after coordinating with known terrorist leader Anwar al-Awlaki, opened fire at Fort Hood, Texas, killing 14 and wounding 32 others.

This was clearly an act of terror, yet the Department of Defense and the Army have classified this case as workplace violence. This is an insult to the brave men and women who were killed and injured that day. But this isn't about semantics; this is about who we are as Americans.

By declaring their deaths as injuries as a result of workplace violence, the Department denied these soldiers and their families benefits like VA health care, counseling and critical mental health services, disability benefits, and combat-related special compensation. It's also made them ineligible to receive the Purple Heart.

As someone who served in the Army at Fort Hood, I can say without hesitation that the Army should be ashamed of this poor level of care and outright disrespect it has shown our soldiers.

Yesterday, I joined one Republican and one Democrat, Congressman WOLF and Congressman FATTAH, in sending a letter to Secretary Hagel asking them to change the designation from workplace violence to combat-related.

Let us send a message that that is who we are as Americans and that is how we treat our veterans.

THE TURKISH AND ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS WORKING TOGETHER

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, last night, there was historic and important news from the Middle East. For the second time, the Israeli and the Turkish governments met and feel they're close to having an agreement to renew their diplomatic relations, which for 3 years have not existed.

There could be nothing more important to peace in the Middle East and

America's interests than the Turkish and the Israeli Governments working together.

Having that historic relationship mended came about because President Obama, on his trip to Israel, urged Prime Minister Netanyahu to apologize for the incidents with the flotilla. He did so. That was a major act on Prime Minister Netanyahu's part. And for Prime Minister Erdogan to accept it was important too. They're working together. They're very close.

I'm pleased with both the Turkish and the Israeli Governments and their leaders, and I thank President Obama for his initiative.

NATIONAL PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate National Public Charter Schools Week. With over 2 million students attending public charter schools nationwide, it is important that we continue to create and develop this very important educational option.

Minnesota is a leader in developing innovative new ways to educate our children, including being the very first State to allow charter schools 21 years ago. In Minnesota, we have 146 charter schools, and we are now ranked number one in the country for having charter school friendly laws and developing high quality and independent charter school options.

Last Congress, we made significant bipartisan support and progress with the introduction of the bipartisan All-STAR Act and passage of the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act. I'm building on this progress and success by working now to craft additional options that aid in the replication of successful charter schools.

America will continue to lead the world in innovation and ideas if our children receive the best education from childhood through graduate school, and all by strengthening charter schools and helping ensure that a child's ZIP code does not determine the quality of education they are able to receive. That is the direction we should go in Congress.

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, the so-called "Working Families Flexibility Act" would amend and would subvert the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 in order to allow private sector employers to compensate their employees instead of paying them overtime.